



Press Release

Social Security Administration
Office of the Inspector General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2010
www.socialsecurity.gov/oig

Contact: (410) 965-4518

Social Security Inspector General Report: *Full Medical Continuing Disability Reviews*

The Inspector General for the Social Security Administration (SSA) issued a report on March 30, 2010 that found that SSA will have made billions of dollars in benefit payments which could have potentially been avoided if full medical continuing disability reviews (CDRs) had been conducted when they became due.

After an individual is determined to be disabled, SSA is required to conduct periodic CDRs to determine whether the individual continues to be disabled. Individuals determined to have a high likelihood of medical improvement undergo a full medical CDR while individuals with a medium or low likelihood of medical improvement are sent a mailer questionnaire. If the completed mailer questionnaire indicates medical improvement, SSA will send the case for a full medical CDR.

The number of full medical CDRs SSA conducted in recent years has decreased, particularly between Fiscal Years (FY) 2004 and 2008 with a decline of approximately 65 percent. According to SSA, resource limitations and increases in its core workloads prevented it from conducting full medical CDRs when they became due. As a result, SSA estimates a backlog of over 1.5 million full medical CDRs will exist at the end of FY 2010.

The Inspector General found that from Calendar Year (CY) 2005 through CY 2010, SSA will have made estimated benefit payments of between \$1.3 and \$2.6 billion that could have been avoided if the full medical CDRs in the backlog had been conducted when they became due. Although SSA plans to conduct an increased number of full medical CDRs in FY 2011, the 1.5-million full medical CDR backlog will most likely remain. Therefore, SSA will pay estimated benefits between \$556 million and \$1.1 billion during CY 2011.

The Inspector General recommended SSA continue to work with Congress to secure the funds necessary to eliminate the existing full medical CDR backlog and conduct the CDRs that become due each year. If resources are not available to conduct the CDRs that become due each year, the Inspector General recommended SSA report the reasons and the associated impact on Federal benefit payments in its annual reports to Congress.

To view the full report, visit <http://www.ssa.gov/oig/ADOBEPDF/A-07-09-29147.pdf>, or for additional information, contact the OIG's public affairs staff assistant at (410) 965-4518.